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OGC SUBJ: RELEASE OF INFORMATION

11 Oct 72

Interagency Classification
Review Committee
National Security Council
Washington, D. C. 20506

Dear Mr. Chairman and distinguished Members:

I hereby appeal a denial by the Central Intelligence Agency of requests dated June 1 and July 6, 1972, for documents concerning the U.S. role in the overthrow of Guatemalan President Jacobo Arbenz in 1954.

Attached copies of correspondence concerning these requests will show you what they are and the responses from CIA. In addition, there were some telephone exchanges following the CIA's June 26 letter in which I asked for, and was refused, suggestions as to how I could revise my June 1 request in order to meet the CIA's definition of "sufficient particularity."

As for reasons why the Interagency committee should overturn the CIA ruling, I hope you appreciate the difficulty of appealing a decision which has been communicated to me with no justification beyond the numerical citation of Sections of 5 (B) of Executive Order 11652. I cannot respond to particulars when none are given to me; nor can I make an affirmative case in any detail when the material on which such a case should be based is denied me.

As a general proposition, I urge you not to allow circumvention of Presidential intent through a subsidiary clause in the Executive Order. I ask that you act instead in accord with its prime stated purpose, as contained in its opening sentence:

"The interests of the United States and its citizens are best served by making information regarding the affairs of Government readily available to the Public."

Sincerely,

Lewis Gulick

copy to Mr. Thuermer, CIA

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